

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to follow my colleague from Tennessee to talk about the bad behavior of vice presidents.

Let me first of all say that when you are a civilian, you are a civilian. But I rise today to express my deepest disappointment in the behavior of the Vice President of the United States of America. A man was injured on the soil of Texas; and, lo and behold, it took us 20 hours before the American people and the President of the United States could have one iota of information.

I wish the attorney in Texas best wishes and good health, but I want to say to the Vice President of the United States that the inherent powers of the presidency do not inure to you, where you are allowed to travel secretly on Air Force II, to not allow the press to follow you as any public servant would have and to hide and cover up a drastic and tragic incident that occurred in the United States of America or anywhere around the world.

I believe the Vice President should own up to what occurred. I understand he made some remarks today, a little too short and a little too delayed. I believe we have seen again a cover-up of this administration, and the Vice President is the chief cover-upper of the United States of America.

Mr. Vice President, you, too, are subject to the laws of the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). The Chair reminds all Members to direct their comments to the Chair.

REIMPORTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS BEING DESTROYED

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to everyone's attention that Customs and Border Protection has recently begun confiscating and destroying prescription drugs intercepted at the U.S.-Canadian border. Unfortunately, CBP is offering no recourse to appeal this action.

While we all know that reimporting prescription drugs from Canada has not been legal in the United States for decades, this practice is not helping our seniors. However, if Border Patrol is suddenly going to enforce a law that many believed that government was no longer interested in enforcing, then they certainly should notify shippers and purchasers. Instead of simply confiscating and destroying these prescription drugs, they should include a warning in the first instance. The majority of the people purchasing these drugs are seniors on fixed incomes and likely do not have the money to repurchase them once they are destroyed.

I urge Customs and Border Protection to at least warn customers when agents intercept these packages. A simple letter would save a lot of grief for many, many seniors who use this procedure and not just seniors but other Americans who choose to purchase their drugs from a Canadian connection.

SAY NO TO HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush served as governor of Texas, that State had more uninsured people than any other State in the union, and his system continues until today: Texas still has more uninsured people percentage-wise as well as numerically.

Today, President Bush visited Ohio to try to sell his latest health care scheme. The reality is his health savings accounts are simply tax shelters for the healthy and wealthy, leaving more Americans worse off. Indeed, the numbers of the uninsured in Ohio have grown dramatically during his administration. More than one out of four people under the age of 65 went without health insurance, and almost half of Ohio's households with children are uninsured, while 76 percent of the uninsured are members of working families.

The President's travel stop today reminds me of his Social Security drive to privatize that a year ago. The American people said no. Our working families deserve better and should not buy this latest ploy for health savings accounts either that are going to leave most Americans in the drink.

HONORING SARAH TERRY

(Mr. GOODE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, Sarah Terry, who is the director of the Farmville Fifth District Office, has battled breast cancer for the last several years and has undergone numerous chemotherapy treatments.

She has served as Executive Director of the Farmville Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Longwood University Board of Visitors, and a leading promoter of outdoor activities such as hiking and cycling. She is a leading proponent of the Virginia Life Fund for the Uninsured, which has raised funds for catastrophic health care for those who cannot afford insurance.

Sarah's enthusiasm for life, her community and her fellow Americans is contagious; and she is a true inspiration for many. We are grateful for the contributions that she has made; and we look forward to her continued outstanding service to Farmville, Virginia, and America.

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HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, we are always glad to have the President of the United States in Ohio, but his health care policies miss an important fact, and that is that \$1 out of every \$4 for health care in the United States goes to the for-profit sector. \$1.6 trillion is spent every year on health care in the United States, but over \$400 billion goes for corporate profits, advertising, marketing, the cost of paperwork, up to 30 percent for the cost of paperwork.

We have over 46 million Americans who lack health insurance, who lack access to quality health care. H.R. 676, the Conyers-Kucinich-Kaptur bill, presents Americans with an alternative, universal, single-payer, not-for-profit health care, Medicare for all.

There is no reason why anyone in this country should be lacking health care when America has the resources right now. It would not cost much more than what we are paying right now. As a matter of fact, Americans are paying for a universal standard of care. They are just not getting it because it is all about corporations making a profit. It is not about people. Support Medicare for all.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the gentleman from Ohio that Tulane Medical Center opened today with a lot of fanfare. That is one of those dreadful private, for-profit corporations; and they are the first such hospital back in business in New Orleans. Ray Nagin said he wished he could bottle that and extend it to other companies.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about the domestic surveillance that was in the news earlier. My colleagues may not have noticed a rather insightful op ed piece that appeared in the Washington Times on January 6 of this year penned by an Alan Nathan.

Mr. Nathan writes that neither Congress nor the judiciary can remove this repeatedly court-recognized inherent authority granted to the President under the Constitution, just as the President cannot remove any of their powers guaranteed in the same great document.

When called upon, all intelligence organizations in the United States are structured to operate in conjunction with the military and accordingly become an integral part of the President's domain as Commander in Chief. Congress voted for this on September 14, 2001, in the war resolution invoked under the War Powers Act of 1973 authorizing the President to use force against all nations.